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[illegible] 18th, 1800.

THE following [illegible] co- [illegible] N. Hutten, [illegible] of Cato West, [illegible] Davis, [illegible] John [illegible] Joseph Cal- [illegible]

[illegible] Feb. 4, 1800.

[illegible] of the 26th [illegible]

1st. "By what authority were Cato West and others, chosen a Committee—If by the people, at what period, in what manner, and for what purpose."

A meeting was held by a number of the principal inhabitants, on the 6th day of July last, in order to confer upon the unhappy situation of the territory, and if possible to devise a remedy.—The result of this meeting was a circular letter drawn up by the [illegible], recommending to the several [illegible] the election of a committee, which was to meet with written instructions from their constituents, in order to inform the governor of the true situation of the country, and petition for a redress of grievances. I [illegible] a copy of the circular letter [illegible], and [illegible] of instructions from the [illegible].

2d. You enquire "what is the aggregate number of the free inhabitants of the Mississippi Territory, what proportion are citizens of the United States, and what the number of our militia."

Our governor has never taken a census of the people nor has he been able to organize the militia, so that we are much at a loss with respect to our numbers; I think however that we cannot have less than six thousand free inhabitants, and about two thousand capable of bearing arms; our

Inclosed: 1800 June 1[illegible], Sargent to [illegible]

been already made in the original [illegible]. The Governor [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of laws, which it is pre-[illegible] have been [illegible] in Colonel Pickering's Office, [illegible] fully persuaded justify the [illegible].

6. At the time of my departure from the Territory, the dispositions of the people were [illegible], the whole country was [illegible] by an idea, that the ordinance for our government, had been wantonly abused, and the constitution of the United States as wantonly violated, at a time and under the circumstances, which required no such sacrifice.

7 But the Governor's appointments, civil and military, as they stand at present, has been a more abundant source of discontent, than any that has arisen under his administration: All the principal officers that possessed the confidence of the people, have uniformly resigned their appointments, and it will be impossible that the Governor can ever be able to organize the militia, notwithstanding his ex-[illegible], in order to force his appointments upon [illegible].

[8.] Can it be [illegible] that an ad-[illegible], which from its earliest [illegible] has proved so repugnant [illegible] to the [illegible] ever be able [illegible] public con-[illegible] general good?

9. There is yet another [illegible] of [illegible], [illegible] the conduct of our Governor, which I feel it a duty [illegible] to suggest to the [illegible] of the House of Repre-[illegible]. He has heretofore been in the [illegible] and receiving [illegible] as citizens [illegible] territory, to the [illegible] and [illegible]. It is believed that his [illegible] have not been [illegible], and if this practice were forbidden by a law of Congress, it is presumed that the [illegible] of the people would be somewhat [illegible], and a great incentive to abuse entirely removed.

10. My state of health will now admit of my personal attendance on the committee of the House of Representatives, and I shall take much pleasure in making such further explanation as may be desired.

11. The people of the Mississippi Territory, are extremely anxious for

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[redacted] and there is no [redacted] to the [redacted] interests [redacted] of [redacted] laws [redacted] to representa[redacted] have [redacted] with [redacted] which cannot [redacted] every American, and produce the best effects in that country.

I am, Sir,

[redacted]

Your very humble Servant,

N. HUNTER,

Agent, Mississippi Territory.

The Hon. W. C. C. CLAIBORNE, }
Chairman Mississippi Committee. }

The preface to this publication of Mr Hunter's letters would suffice the Governor without more comment or observation, for that he believes himself *specially* libelled in No. 2, second and third sections.

This letter accompanied by an Estimate of 10760 Dollars, for the current expenses of Adams county in '99 [redacted] been made by the Governor, has been laid before the Honourable Congress, by Mr. Hunter, signing himself 'Mississippi Agent'—And so far as he shall have been accredited, must have *strongly* marked the governor's character, not only with manifest prodigality of public resources and future projects of Taxation, but the most wanton abuse of laws, *his* immediate province to have protected sacred and inviolate.

An accusation so momentous—and made to the national representatives, deserves much and very serious consideration. The Governor hesitates not to acknowledge, that if he be guilty of the charges so formally alledged in the 2d and 3d, sections of the letter before alluded to, NO PUNISHMENT, which his respected Government *could* inflict, would be commensurate with the enormity of his crime.

If however (and he verily *so* believes) falsehood and misrepresentation are the prominent features thereof—*that* not prodigal of public resources, it shall appear from his authority, he has uniformly oeconomized; *that* so far from ever having assumed to usurp the power of the courts, he *has* respected their authority, and declined giving even an opinion upon county expenses, until required thereto under the order of the constitution and the laws *that* he has unceasingly aimed to lessen *those expenses* by extending (to its utmost latitude) his controul over public buildings within the Territory for county accommodation,

what degree of odium should attach to malevolence cruelly essaying to blast fair hope of fame, *founded* upon the

...ersonally natives of the United ...tes; there is not perhaps one tenth ...any other description.

...You enquire "whether the ...ration to the Territory is great, ...whether any of the citizens have ...ely removed to the Spanish Do...ions, and if any, what seems to ...been the inducements." ...ur emigration to our country is at ...time extremely limited, the im...bility of procuring lands by any ...but that by purchase from indi...s, and the facility with which ...may procured in the Spanish Do...ions, forms an insuperable bar to ...increase of our population; though ...n of property who have lately de...ed the river, seem rather inclined ...sacrifice a part of their property in ...purchase of lands whereon to set...than to avail themselves of the ...terms offered by the Spanish go...ment, but the poorer classes are ...alled to go below.

...An alarming depopulation took place ...winter under the patronage of ...tor White; we could never learn ...the exact number of families, but they ...were sufficiently numerous to form a ...siderable settlement below the line ...which Dr. White is commandant. ...number of the inhabitants have been ...ing out this summer, and preparing ...remove below at the end of the ...Various circumstances may ...have combined in producing this dire...liction, but we do not hesitate to say that the morose, arbitrary contumacy of Governor Sargent, are among the primary causes.

4th. You would know "the particular culture which occupies the attention of the planter of the Mississippi Territory, what are our articles of exportation, and what the supposed quantity and value."

Cotton is at present the staple of the Territory, and is cultivated with singular advantage to the planter.

We get a quarter of a dollar per lb. for clean cotton, and an active planter will make from five to eight hundred pounds wt. to a hand: and as I conceive we have as many black as white inhabitants, we cannot make much less than three million of pounds of merchantable cotton, equal to 750,000 dollars.

We are able to raise, at a small expense, great quantities of pork; but the price for three or four years past, has not been more than 3 1 2 dollars, consequently little has been raised. Our soil and climate seems peculiarly adapted to the growth of Indigo, as well as cotton; and the sugar cane thrives well in the lower part of the Territory.

I am, Dear Sir,
With great Esteem: Yours,
N. HUNTER.
Agent, Mississippi Territory.

No. 2.

February 8, 1800.

DEAR SIR,

I received your obliging note of the 3d instant, and while you have my sincere and hearty thanks for your vigilance and attention to the business of the Natchez, I shall make every exertion in my power to elucidate such parts of our petition and documents as may appear vague or ambiguous.

2. The estimate annexed to the petition of Cato West and others, (mentioned in your note) is not "the amount of the tax laid on the county of Adams by a law of the Territory," but it appears to be the sum which the Governor thought necessary to be raised in that county, for the service of the last year; and it was sent by him to the first court of general quarter sessions, in order to receive the sanction of that court. This would give it immediate currency, and necessarily operate in aid of his future projects of taxation.

3. But such a manifest prodigality of the public resources appeared upon the face of it—together with so marked an opposition to the public opinion, with regard to the place whereon the public buildings were to be erected, that it received the immediate disapprobation of the court; and I believe a similar instrument was never presented to the county of Pickering.

4. I would here beg leave to call your attention to the first address of the committee, to Governor Sargent, of the 26th of August. It is there stated that he had adopted and pursued improper measures; that he had given an exclusive confidence to a party; that his measures were calculated to give confidence to the insolence of faction, and to suffocate the germ of public virtue in the upright citizen. He was also told that most of the perplexities which had embarrassed him in his administration, had undoubtedly flowed from this source: but anxious for a general accommodation, and animated with a hope of inspiring a system of measures capable of embracing that object, the committee was ready to admit, that the Governor had been surprised into those measures by partial or designing statements. To this address, however, the Governor avoided to return an answer; for the fact is, the charges were too true to be denied, and his conduct too improper to be justified.

5. I must also solicit the attention of the Committee of the House of Representatives, to the address of Cato West and others, to the Governor and Judges, upon the subject of the laws, and the answer to that address. The committee charges the legislature, of making laws in express contradiction to the letter of the ordinance of 87, which authorises them only to adopt

Territorial Judges, from time to time,